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## 'No Greater Threat'

IN HIS ADDRESS before the American Newspaper Publishers Association. President Kennedy said some things that sorely needed saying.

He told the nation's publishers an illustration, that "no war ever posed a greater threat to our security" than the struggle in which the United States is now engaged. These, to be sure, are strong words. The President said, in effect, that not even the grimmest days of World War II were more menacing to the nation's survival. In that appraisal, we believe, he was wholly correct. The stakes in the Cold War are higher than the stakes in any other war in our history. Only the tactics are different.

Viewed in that light, the situation certainly justifies the type of self-censorship that Mr. Kennedy proposed.

In World War II, every newspaper publisher in America saw it as a duty to refrain from printing any information that might contribute to the enemy's understanding of our military purposes. There is just as much reason for a similar kind of restraint today.

Mr. Kennedy does not advocate the creation of a Federal agency to compel compliance. He is relying instead upon the patriotism and the good judgment of the publishing community. In that reliance, we think, he will not be disappointed.

Earlier this week, we took issue with a Columbia Broadcasting System commentator who criticized the American press for not having given more publicity to what he described as the construction of an air base in

### DAILY THOUGHT:

*When you know a thing, to hold that you know it; and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it; this is knowledge.*

—Confucius.

Guatemala by the Central Intelligence Agency for use against Castro Cuba.

This, as we see it, is the very sort of operation that should not have been publicized. And we are proud that most of the American press did not play into Castro's hands by handing him a blow-by-blow account of its construction. Even so, there was more than enough information in general circulation to make the task of repelling the invasion far simpler. Similar coverage of the preparations for the invasion of Western Europe in 1944 might well have doomed that operation to failure.

THE PRESIDENT certainly does not suggest that he or his administration is above criticism—either in the domestic arena or in the conduct of foreign affairs. The American press, we know, would never stand still for the gagging of fair comment on the ordinary processes of government.

But this sort of criticism is a far cry from the kind of publicity to which Mr. Kennedy referred—publicity that serves no cause so well as the enemy's.

We applaud Mr. Kennedy for recognizing the gravity of the moment in which we live, and we assure him that we shall do everything in our power to make certain that we are not a party to a betrayal of the nation's military security.